

REMARKS

Claims 14, 16, 18, 39, 41, 49, 50, 54-58, 61, 62 and 64-77 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 14, 16 and 39 are amended to incorporate the features of claims 15, 17 and 40 respectively, which the Office Action identifies as reciting allowable subject matter. Claim 41, which the Office Action identifies as reciting allowable subject matter is rewritten in independent form. Claims 15, 17, 40, 59, 60 and 63 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the features recited in these claims. Claims 18 and 56-58 are amended for agreement with the respective independent claims and claims 66-77 are added. Support for the added claims can be found throughout Applicant's specification. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter recited by claims 15, 17, 18, 40, 41 and 56-65. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance as detailed below.

Claims 14, 16, 39, 49, 50, 54 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wakamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,515 in view of Vogel (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0257544). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is rendered moot by the incorporation of allowable subject matter into claims 14, 16 and 39. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Added claims 66-77 also are patentable over the applied references for at least the dependence of these claims on claims 14, 16, 39 and 41 and for the separately patentable features that these claims recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 14, 16, 18, 39, 41, 49, 50, 54-58, 61, 62 and 64-77 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination
Information Disclosure Statement

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